

(b)(3)

(John) Malcolm FRASER

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister
(since December 1975)

Addressed as:
Mr. Prime Minister



Leader of the Liberal Party (LP) since March 1975, Malcolm Fraser stands well to the right of most members of his basically conservative party and is determined to move Australian politics in that direction. He has taken direct personal control of his government in an effort to cut spending, give more powers to state governments, and give the average man greater "economic independence." The unexpected landslide victory of Fraser's LP-National Country Party coalition government in elections held on 10 December 1977 greatly strengthened his political position and will give him at least another three years to pursue his goal of reducing inflation.

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Foreign Policy

The dominant voice in Australian foreign policy, Fraser believes in facing fundamental policy issues squarely.

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[redacted] In his first major foreign policy speech to Parliament, in June 1976, he strongly endorsed the US-Australian alliance; expressed the hope that "good working relations" with the People's Republic of China would continue; and demanded that the Soviet Union prove its commitment to world peace by restraining its military expansionism. Fraser has a strong bias against the USSR and is concerned that Western nations are being duped by the Soviets in disarmament talks. He also has strong doubts about the determination of the West to resist what he believes to be the constant and unchanging Soviet effort to dominate Western Europe. He has visited Washington, most recently in June 1977.

Personal Data

Born in Melbourne, Fraser is the son of a wealthy grazier (cattle farmer). He attended the prestigious Melbourne Grammar School and received a master's degree in philosophy, political science and economics from Magdalen College, Oxford. In earlier conservative governments he served as Minister for the Army (1966-68), for Education and Science (1968-69; 1971-72) and for Defense (1969-71).

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Fraser, 48, is a wealthy man, who has a house in one of Canberra's fashionable districts, as well as an estate in Victoria, where he raises cattle and sheep. He lists his leisure interests as fishing and photography, but he can be roused to real enthusiasm when talking about his motorcycle. Fraser married Tamara Beggs in 1956; the couple has two sons and two daughters. [redacted]

(b)(6)

30 May 1978

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